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AMERICAN COMICS GROUP ACG

№ 7 MARCH

OUT OF the NIGHT

10¢

DOOMED TO KNOW THE HUNGER OF A **WITCH**-- TO SLAY THE MAN CLOSEST TO HER HEART! THAT WAS THE FRIGHTENING FATE OF LOVELY LINDA GARRISON-- IN "**CURSE** OF THE **WITCH**!"

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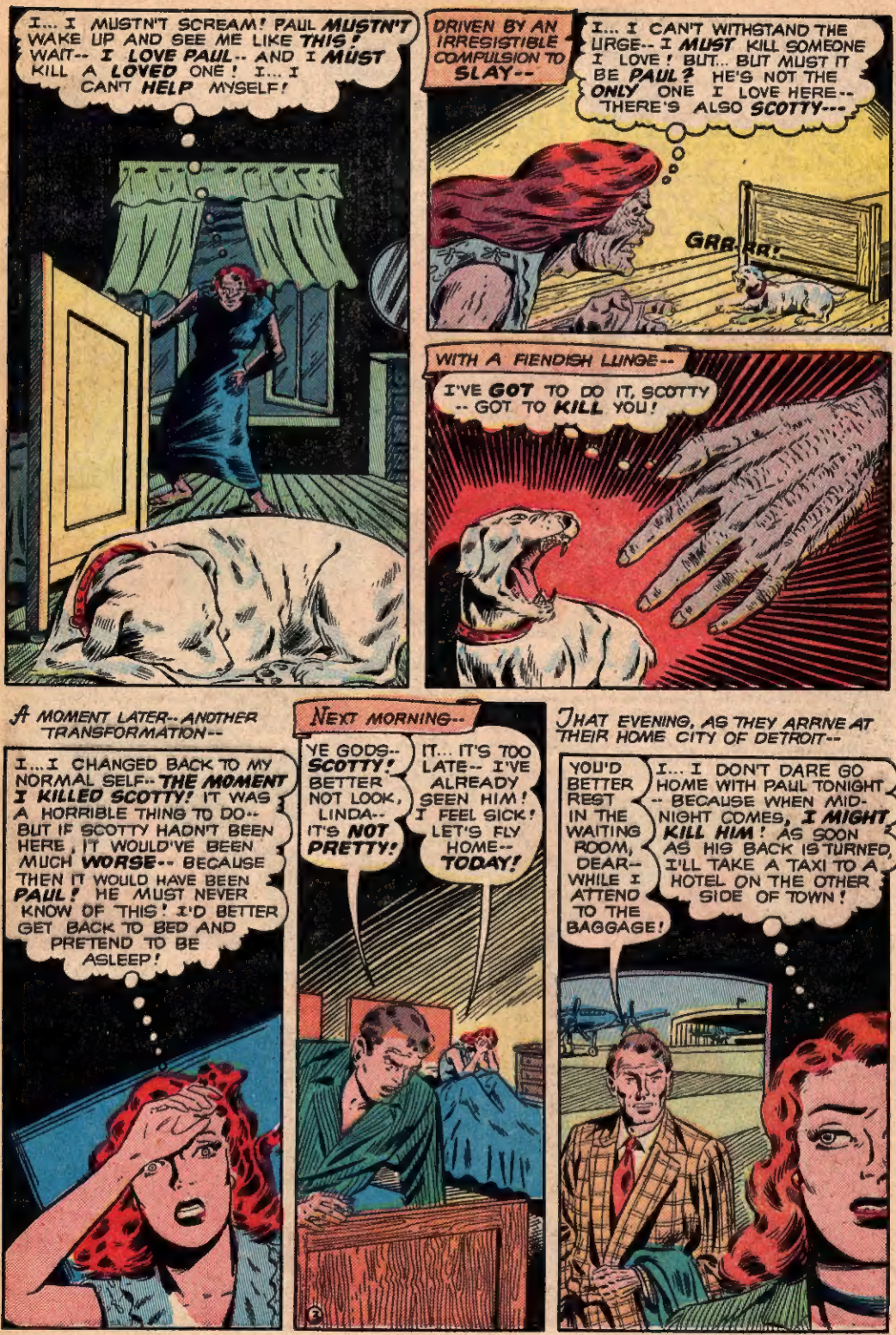
THE SCIENCE OF BOTANY IS FILLED WITH SUCH STRANGE AND MYSTERIOUS TERMS AS **WITCH-ALDER, WITCH-GRASS,** AND **WITCH-MEAL** -- BUT THE FASCINATING HISTORY OF HOW SUCH PLANTS **GOT** THEIR NAMES BELONGS NOT TO THE REALM OF SCIENCE, BUT TO THE FORBIDDEN WORLDS OF **SORCERY** AND **DEMONOLOGY!** FOR PROOF, ASK LINDA AND PAUL GARRISON--WHO EXPERIENCED FIRST-HAND THE SUPREME HORROR OF...

The CURSE of the WITCH

OUT OF THE NIGHT, published bi-monthly and copyright, 1952, by Creston Publications Corp., 420 DeSoto Ave., St. Louis 7, Missouri. Editorial offices, 45 West 45 St., New York 36, N. Y. Richard E. Hughes, Editor; Frederick H. Iger, Business Manager. Subscription (12 issues), $1.20; single copies, $0.10; foreign postage extra. All characters are fictitious and use of any real names is coincidental. For advertising information, address American Comics Group, 45 West 45 St., New York 36, N.Y. Entered as second class matter at the Post Office at St. Louis, Missouri. No. 7, February-March, 1953.
Printed in U.S.A.

AS THE FLAME AND SMOKE VANISH WITH EXTREME SUDDENNESS--
THAT--THAT FIRE BEHAVED MOST STRANGELY, PAUL!
YES, APPARENTLY THAT MATCH LANDED RIGHT IN A PATCH OF THE INFLAMMABLE, POWDERY POLLEN OF THE CLUB-MOSS LYCOPODIUM CLAVATUM! THE STUFF IS GENERALLY CALLED WITCH-MEAL--AND THEREBY HANGS A TALE!
YOU SEE, IT SEEMS THAT PEOPLE ONCE THOUGHT WITCHES ACTUALLY FED ON THIS POLLEN! ANCIENT LEGENDS SAY THAT ANYONE WHO DESTROYED THE WITCHES' FOOD WAS DOOMED TO KNOW THE HUNGER OF A WITCH--A HUNGER WHICH COULD BE SATISFIED ONLY BY THE KILLING OF A LOVED ONE! BUT FORGET IT, DARLING--IT'S OBVIOUSLY A RIDICULOUS SUPERSTITION!
BUT THAT MIDNIGHT--
I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT WOKE ME UP--BUT I... I HAVE AN OVERWHELMING DESIRE TO GO TO THE CABIN WINDOW!
THEN--AT THE WINDOW, IN THE UNEARTHLY MOONLIGHT--A GHASTLY SIGHT FROM OUT OF THE DREAD UNKNOWN!
GOOD HEAVENS!
YE HAVE DESTROYED A SUPPLY OF WITCH-MEAL, LINDA GARRISON--AND SO NOW, THE WITCH'S CURSE IS UPON YE!
FROM MIDNIGHT TILL DAWN, NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, YE SHALL KNOWN THE WITCH'S HUNGER--THE AWFUL HUNGER THAT CAN BE APPEASED ONLY BY SLAYING A LOVED ONE! EACH NIGHT THAT YE SLAY NO ONE, YE SHALL SUFFER UNSPEAKABLE TORTURES OF BODY AND MIND--AND IF YE SLAY NO ONE FOR THREE NIGHTS IN SUCCESSION--YE SHALL PERISH AND BECOME A SLAVE OF SATAN FOR ETERNITY!
MY... MY ARMS ...THEY'RE CHANGING! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO MY WHOLE BODY!
AS THE AWFUL APPARITION VANISHES--
OHH! I... I CAN SEE MY REFLECTION! I... I'VE BECOME A HIDEOUS OLD HAG!


I... I MUSTN'T SCREAM! PAUL MUSTN'T WAKE UP AND SEE ME LIKE THIS! WAIT-- I LOVE PAUL-- AND I MUST KILL A LOVED ONE! I... I CAN'T HELP MYSELF!
DRIVEN BY AN IRRESISTIBLE COMPULSION TO SLAY--
I... I CAN'T WITHSTAND THE URGE-- I MUST KILL SOMEONE I LOVE! BUT... BUT MUST IT BE PAUL? HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE I LOVE HERE-- THERE'S ALSO SCOTTY---
GRR...RR!-
WITH A FIENDISH LUNGE--
I'VE GOT TO DO IT, SCOTTY -- GOT TO KILL YOU!
A MOMENT LATER--ANOTHER TRANSFORMATION--
I...I CHANGED BACK TO MY NORMAL SELF--THE MOMENT I KILLED SCOTTY! IT WAS A HORRIBLE THING TO DO-- BUT IF SCOTTY HADN'T BEEN HERE, IT WOULD'VE BEEN MUCH WORSE-- BECAUSE THEN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN PAUL! HE MUST NEVER KNOW OF THIS! I'D BETTER GET BACK TO BED AND PRETEND TO BE ASLEEP!
NEXT MORNING--
YE GODS-- SCOTTY! BETTER NOT LOOK, LINDA-- IT'S NOT PRETTY!
IT... IT'S TOO LATE-- I'VE ALREADY SEEN HIM! I FEEL SICK! LET'S FLY HOME-- TODAY!
THAT EVENING, AS THEY ARRIVE AT THEIR HOME CITY OF DETROIT--
YOU'D BETTER REST IN THE WAITING ROOM, DEAR-- WHILE I ATTEND TO THE BAGGAGE!
I... I DON'T DARE GO HOME WITH PAUL TONIGHT -- BECAUSE WHEN MIDNIGHT COMES, I MIGHT KILL HIM! AS SOON AS HIS BACK IS TURNED, I'LL TAKE A TAXI TO A HOTEL ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN!

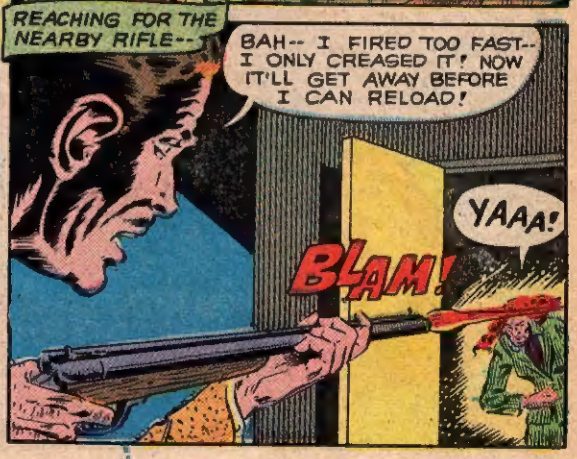
AS MIDNIGHT STRIKES IN MUFFLED TONES THROUGH THE QUIET HALLS OF A DETROIT HOTEL--
IT... IT'S HAPPENING-- AGAIN! AND I... I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL THAT TERRIBLE URGE!

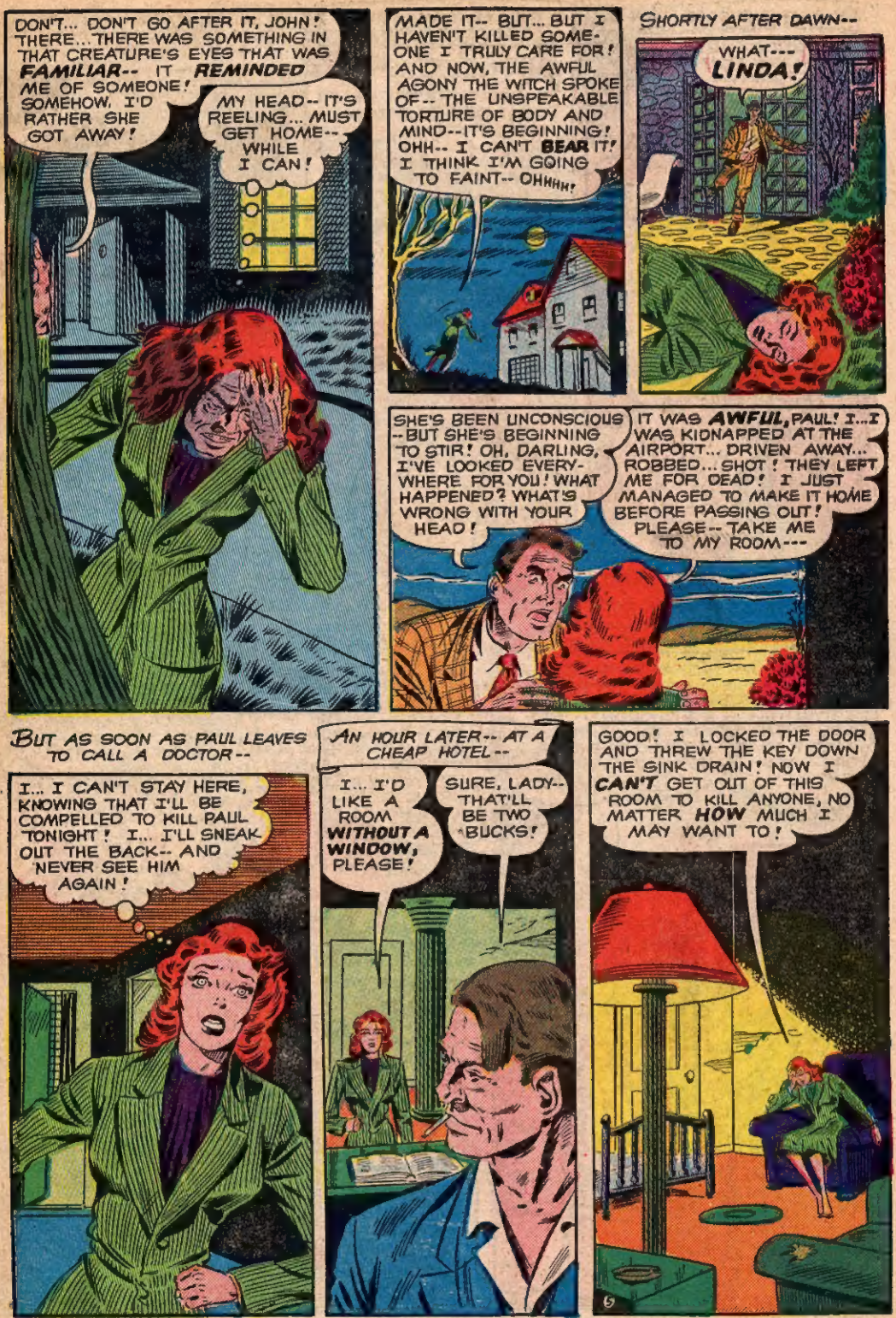
THEN, WITH THE ANCIENT LORE OF WITCHCRAFT THROBBING IN HER BRAIN--
I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I MUST DO-- AS IF I'VE DONE IT THOUSANDS OF TIMES BEFORE! I MUST KILL ANOTHER LOVED ONE! I MUST KILL-- KILL-- KILL!

WITH THE POWER OF HER NEW BEING, LINDA GLIDES FROM HER HOTEL WINDOW--
I MUST GO HOME-- TO PAUL-- TO KILL HIM!

SOON AFTERWARDS, IN THE NEW GARRISON HOME IN THE SUBURBS--
HE ISN'T HOME-- HE MUST BE OUT SEARCHING FOR ME! BUT I MUST KILL SOMEONE I LOVE-- I MUST! WAIT-- MY BEST FRIEND-- SHE LIVES NEAR HERE!

MINUTES LATER--
KILL-- MUST KILL!
OHHH!
YE GODS! GET OUT OF THE WAY, EDITH!


REACHING FOR THE NEARBY RIFLE--
BAH-- I FIRED TOO FAST-- I ONLY CREASED IT! NOW IT'LL GET AWAY BEFORE I CAN RELOAD!
YAAA!
BLAM!


DON'T... DON'T GO AFTER IT, JOHN! THERE...THERE WAS SOMETHING IN THAT CREATURE'S EYES THAT WAS FAMILIAR-- IT REMINDED ME OF SOMEONE! SOMEHOW, I'D RATHER SHE GOT AWAY!
MY HEAD-- IT'S REELING... MUST GET HOME-- WHILE I CAN!
MADE IT-- BUT... BUT I HAVEN'T KILLED SOMEONE I TRULY CARE FOR! AND NOW, THE AWFUL AGONY THE WITCH SPOKE OF-- THE UNSPEAKABLE TORTURE OF BODY AND MIND--IT'S BEGINNING! OHH-- I CAN'T BEAR IT! I THINK I'M GOING TO FAINT-- OHHHH!
SHORTLY AFTER DAWN--
WHAT--- LINDA!
SHE'S BEEN UNCONSCIOUS --BUT SHE'S BEGINNING TO STIR! OH, DARLING, I'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE FOR YOU! WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR HEAD!
IT WAS AWFUL, PAUL! I...I WAS KIDNAPPED AT THE AIRPORT... DRIVEN AWAY... ROBBED... SHOT! THEY LEFT ME FOR DEAD! I JUST MANAGED TO MAKE IT HOME BEFORE PASSING OUT! PLEASE-- TAKE ME TO MY ROOM---
BUT AS SOON AS PAUL LEAVES TO CALL A DOCTOR--
I... I CAN'T STAY HERE, KNOWING THAT I'LL BE COMPELLED TO KILL PAUL TONIGHT! I... I'LL SNEAK OUT THE BACK-- AND NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN!
AN HOUR LATER-- AT A CHEAP HOTEL--
I... I'D LIKE A ROOM WITHOUT A WINDOW, PLEASE!
SURE, LADY-- THAT'LL BE TWO BUCKS!
GOOD! I LOCKED THE DOOR AND THREW THE KEY DOWN THE SINK DRAIN! NOW I CAN'T GET OUT OF THIS ROOM TO KILL ANYONE, NO MATTER HOW MUCH I MAY WANT TO!
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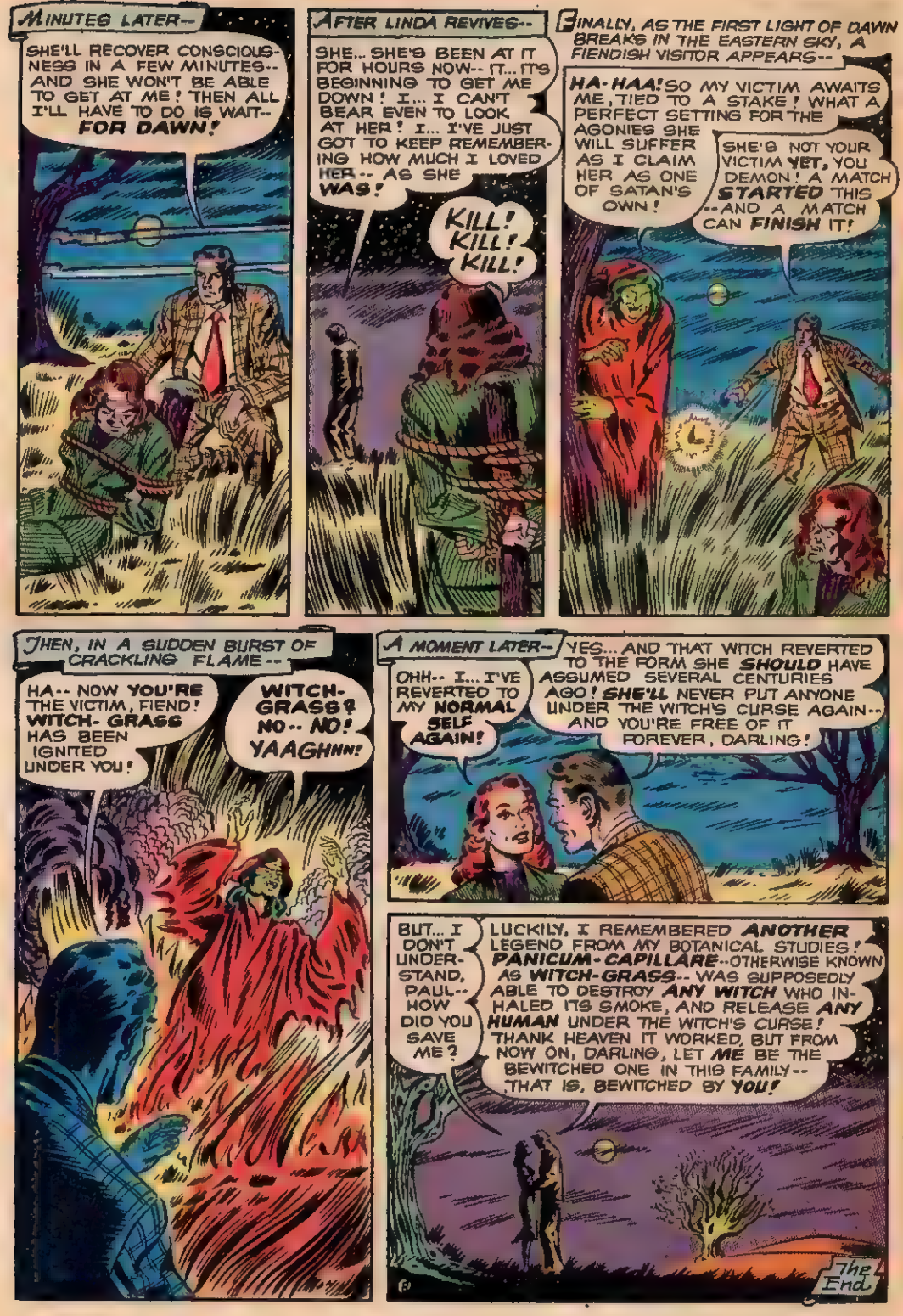
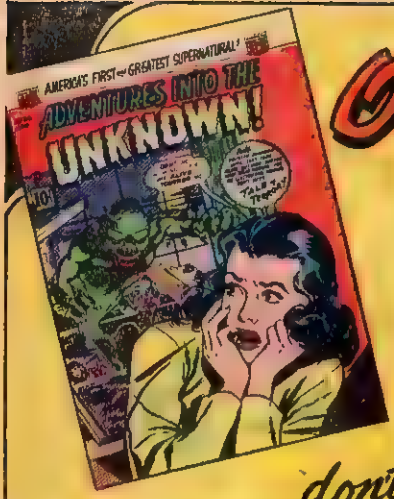
BUT AT MIDNIGHT--
H... HEAVEN HELP ME-- IT'S STARTED AGAIN---
WITH THE TRANSFORMATION COMPLETE--
MUST GET OUT... MUST KILL A LOVED ONE! GOT TO GET THROUGH THAT DOOR... GOT TO SMASH IT DOWN---
IN A MAD FRENZY--
CRAK!
YEEAAAHH!
LATER, AT THE GARRISON HOME--
ALL RIGHT, MR. GARRISON-- THE MISSING PERSONS BUREAU WILL BEND EVERY EFFORT TO LOCATE YOUR WIFE!
THAT HEAD WOUND MIGHT HAVE BEEN MORE SERIOUS THAN I THOUGHT-- SHE MAY BE WANDERING AROUND THE CITY, TOTALLY DAZED! WAIT-- THE PHONE---
RING-G!
HELLO, MR. GARRISON? WE JUST FOUND A WOMAN UNCONSCIOUS IN ONE OF OUR HOTEL ROOMS! SEEMS SHE TRIED TO SMASH THE DOOR DOWN WITH HER HEAD! PAPERS IN HER PURSE INDICATE SHE'S YOUR WIFE!
WHAT? WHERE'S YOUR HOTEL AT-- I'LL BE RIGHT DOWN!
HALF AN HOUR LATER--
WHAT-- YOU'RE MR. GARRISON -- THE HUSBAND OF THAT OLD HAG?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! TAKE ME TO HER!
THAT'S HER! WE FIGURED WE'D CALL YOU BEFORE WE CALLED THE COPS!
YOU FOOL--THAT WOMAN CAN'T BE MY WIFE! BUT WAIT-- THOSE ARE THE VERY CLOTHES LINDA WAS WEARING THE LAST TIME I SAW HER -- AND THAT'S HER RING! YE GODS--I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND IT ALL NOW! QUICK-- HELP ME GET HER DOWN TO MY CAR!

AT DAWN--
SHE'S CHANGING BACK INTO HER NORMAL SELF NOW... INTO THE LINDA I KNOW! AND... AND SHE'S STIRRING, BEGINNING TO REVIVE!
WHERE-- AM-- I---
PAUL! IT... IT'S DAWN-- YOU... YOU MUST HAVE WATCHED ME CHANGE BACK INTO---
YES, DARLING-- I SAW YOU-- AND I KNOW EVERY-THING NOW! IT ALL ADDS UP --THE WITCH-MEAL, SCOTTY-- EVERY-THING! THE WITCH'S CURSE WAS PUT UPON YOU, WASN'T IT?
YES SO-- -- BUT THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO HELP ME! I HAVEN'T SLAIN A LOVED ONE FOR TWO NIGHTS NOW-- AND IF I DON'T KILL ANYONE TONIGHT, THEN I... I'LL PERISH AND BECOME A SLAVE OF SATAN FOR ETERNITY! YOU MUSTN'T BE WITH ME AT MIDNIGHT, BECAUSE THE IMPULSE TO KILL IS IRRESISTIBLE -- SO... SO LEAVE ME, DARLING!
NO! THERE IS A WAY TO SAVE YOU! IT'S A LONG SHOT-- BUT WE'RE GOING FOR A LONG DRIVE-- NOW!
THAT NIGHT--
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR PLAN IS, PAUL, BUT I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET YOU TALK ME INTO THIS TRIP! IT'S GETTING CLOSE TO MID-NIGHT-- AND I'D RATHER DIE THAN HARM YOU! LET ME OUT AND DRIVE AWAY QUICKLY-- PLEASE!
NOT WHEN WE'RE SO CLOSE TO OUR DESTI-NATION! THERE'S THE GRASSY PLAIN I HAD IN MIND-- RIGHT AHEAD OF US!
SOON AFTERWARDS--
THERE, THAT DOES IT! NOW TO---
IT... IT'S TOO LATE, PAUL! IT MUST BE MIDNIGHT, BECAUSE I... I'M CHANGING! RUN-- RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!
IN THE NEXT HORROR-LADEN MOMENT--
KILL! KILL!
GREAT GUNS-- SHE'S GOT SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO---
I'M SORRY, DARLING-- BUT THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!
OHHH!
WHAM!
7


MINUTES LATER--
SHE'LL RECOVER CONSCIOUSNESS IN A FEW MINUTES--AND SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET AT ME! THEN ALL I'LL HAVE TO DO IS WAIT--FOR DAWN!
AFTER LINDA REVIVES--
SHE... SHE'S BEEN AT IT FOR HOURS NOW-- IT... IT'S BEGINNING TO GET ME DOWN! I... I CAN'T BEAR EVEN TO LOOK AT HER! I... I'VE JUST GOT TO KEEP REMEMBERING HOW MUCH I LOVED HER-- AS SHE WAS!
KILL! KILL! KILL!
FINALLY, AS THE FIRST LIGHT OF DAWN BREAKS IN THE EASTERN SKY, A FIENDISH VISITOR APPEARS--
HA-HAA! SO MY VICTIM AWAITS ME, TIED TO A STAKE! WHAT A PERFECT SETTING FOR THE AGONIES SHE WILL SUFFER AS I CLAIM HER AS ONE OF SATAN'S OWN!
SHE'S NOT YOUR VICTIM YET, YOU DEMON! A MATCH STARTED THIS--AND A MATCH CAN FINISH IT!
THEN, IN A SUDDEN BURST OF CRACKLING FLAME--
HA-- NOW YOU'RE THE VICTIM, FIEND! WITCH-GRASS HAS BEEN IGNITED UNDER YOU!
WITCH-GRASS? NO-- NO! YAAGHHH!
A MOMENT LATER--
OHH-- I... I'VE REVERTED TO MY NORMAL SELF AGAIN!
YES... AND THAT WITCH REVERTED TO THE FORM SHE SHOULD HAVE ASSUMED SEVERAL CENTURIES AGO! SHE'LL NEVER PUT ANYONE UNDER THE WITCH'S CURSE AGAIN-- AND YOU'RE FREE OF IT FOREVER, DARLING!
BUT... I DON'T UNDERSTAND, PAUL-- HOW DID YOU SAVE ME?
LUCKILY, I REMEMBERED ANOTHER LEGEND FROM MY BOTANICAL STUDIES! PANICUM-CAPILLARE--OTHERWISE KNOWN AS WITCH-GRASS-- WAS SUPPOSEDLY ABLE TO DESTROY ANY WITCH WHO INHALED ITS SMOKE, AND RELEASE ANY HUMAN UNDER THE WITCH'S CURSE! THANK HEAVEN IT WORKED, BUT FROM NOW ON, DARLING, LET ME BE THE BEWITCHED ONE IN THIS FAMILY-- THAT IS, BEWITCHED BY YOU!
The End



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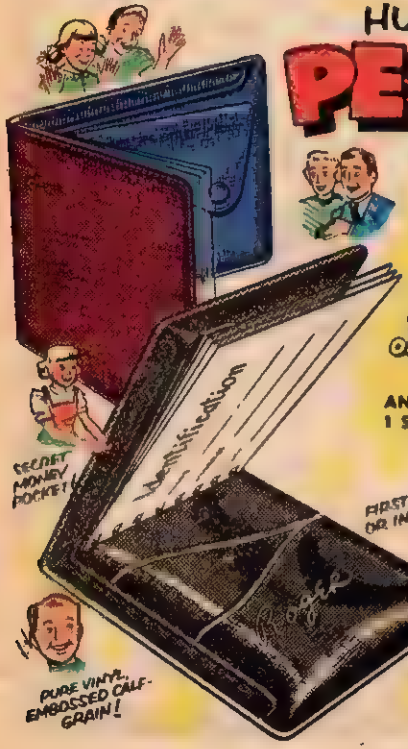

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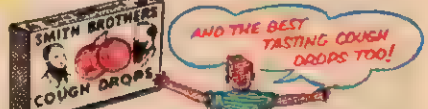

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Cats have NINE LIVES

JIM NICHOLS GRIMLY rested his hands on the butts of his holstered revolvers as he strode up the jungle trail to where the natives were jabbering in fright among themselves.

"What's holding us up, M'kala?" he demanded of the native leader. "We haven't reached the elephant graveyard yet...so tell the bearers to get moving again...fast!"

"We...we no go more, bwana," M'kala quavered, fear etched in his old face. "Look...marks of tiger-woman on ground!"

Nichols glanced down to where the native was pointing, and saw the prints of a tiger's fore-feet. Slightly behind were the prints of two rather delicate human feet. There were no imprints of the tiger's hind-feet.

"I'm beginning to understand," Nichols said, his voice edged with menace. "You're trying to hold me up for more money before you take me to that fortune in ivory...by making me think it's dangerous to go up this trail. But you picked the wrong method ...because I don't believe that hogwash about tiger-women. You made those imprints yourself with a tiger's stuffed paws, and then you had one of your boys step in back to leave womanish prints. But I'm fed up with your tricks...either you order your men to get going again, or you'll never give another order!"

"Is...is no *trick*, bwana," the old man said, cringing. "Is real tiger-woman...is *death* to go more."

CRAK!

Smoke curled out of Nichols' .38, wavering in the air as old M'kala swayed on his feet before sinking slowly to the ground.

Revolver still in hand, Nichols faced the rest of the natives over the body of their dead leader. "That's what'll happen to *all* of you unless you do as I say!" Nichols grated. *"Nothing's* going to keep me from getting my hands on the ivory in that elephant graveyard..."

He stopped suddenly, his eyes riveted on a spot about fifty yards up the trail, where the lithe, tawny figure of an exotically beautiful girl had emerged from the bushes. She was walking toward him now with a strangely feline grace, and so mesmerized by her beauty was Nichols that he didn't even try to stop the natives from fleeing in terror down the trail, all of them screaming, *"Tiger-woman! Tiger-woman!"*

It was only when the girl was suddenly transformed into a snarling tiger before Nichols' eyes that he realized the mortal peril he was in. The beast was some twenty yards away by the time he unlimbered the rifle slung from his shoulder. Only a high-powered rifle would stop a beast like that, Nichols knew, as he aimed carefully and pulled the trigger.

He emptied the entire clip of eight cartridges point blank into the charging tiger. When the smoke cleared, there was the figure of the tawny girl once again...but this time her body lay lifeless in the jungle grass.

Grinning, Nichols approached to examine his kill. But just as he bent down to peer closely at her, the girl beneath him changed instantaneously into a tiger...a tiger with raking claws and tearing fangs. And Jim Nichols' last thought was that he had shot her *eight* times, but cats were supposed to have *nine* lives.

CAN THE DEAD RETURN? DO GHOSTS REALLY EXIST... AND COME BACK TO HAUNT THE LIVING? GAIL FLEMING, LIKE MOST PEOPLE, WOULD HAVE SAID IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE... UNTIL SHE FOUND HERSELF AN UNWILLING HOSTESS TO...

The SPECTRAL VISITOR

WHY DON'T WE GET MARRIED NOW... INSTEAD OF WAITING AS WE PLANNED? I JUST DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF YOUR BEING ALONE IN THAT BIG HOUSE!
I DO LOVE YOU, MARK ...BUT IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO YOU! I...I NEED TIME TO COLLECT MYSELF!
DON'T TAKE IT TOO HARD, MY BOY! AFTER ALL, SHE IS UPSET, BUT SHE DOES LOVE YOU! I'LL STAY ON WITH HER FOR A FEW WEEKS, AND I'M CERTAIN THINGS WILL STRAIGHTEN OUT!
THANK YOU, SIR, BUT KEEP AN EYE ON HER! I'M WORRIED!
LATE THAT SAME EVENING...
I LIKE THAT YOUNG MAN OF YOURS, GAIL! A BIT IMPULSIVE, PERHAPS, BUT THEN YOUNG MEN IN LOVE USUALLY ARE! ANYWAY, YOU GO ON UP TO BED! GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING!
THANK YOU, UNCLE PETER! YOU'VE BEEN SO KIND AND GOOD!
SEVERAL HOURS LATER, GAIL AWAKENS FROM A FITFUL SLEEP...A COLD STAB OF FEAR CHILLING HER HEART!
SOMETHING'S IN THE ROOM! THAT STRANGE, SHUFFLING SOUND...
THEN...A SPECTRAL VISION!
FATHER!
I HAVE COME A GREAT DISTANCE, TRAVELLED A LONG, PAINFUL ROAD ...SO THAT I MAY WARN YOU OF AN IMPENDING DANGER!
YOU MUST NOT MARRY MARK! IT IS NOT YOU, BUT THE INHERITANCE PROPERTY I HAVE LEFT YOU, THAT HE REALLY LOVES!
BUT...BUT YOU LIKED MARK! YOU TOLD ME SO MANY TIMES!
DEATH BRINGS WISDOM, MY DAUGHTER! IT IS WITHIN MY POWER TO SEE HIM NOW FOR WHAT HE REALLY IS! HEED MY WARNING... AND SEND HIM AWAY BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!
BUT I...FATHER! WAIT...DON'T LEAVE ME!
2

TWO WEEKS PASS, BUT THE SHOCK OF HER FRIGHTFUL EXPERIENCE STILL CLINGS TO GAIL'S TORTURED MIND! THEN, EARLY ONE EVENING...
MARK... I CAN'T SEE YOU! PLEASE GO AWAY!
NOT UNTIL I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON! THIS TIME I'M COMING IN!
NOW WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT? WHEN I CALL YOU'RE NOT AT HOME! YOU WON'T ANSWER MY LETTERS! WHY?
I'VE.. EXPERIENCED SOMETHING YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE! SOMETHING I WOULDN'T BELIEVE, EITHER ... BUT IT'S TRUE!
I'VE SEEN MY FATHER'S GHOST! HE'S WARNED ME, MARK ...ABOUT YOU! HE SAYS THAT YOU DON'T LOVE ME... THAT YOU'RE ONLY INTERESTED IN MY MONEY!
YOU KNOW WHY, DAUGHTER! HE CAN'T WAIT TILL HE CAN LAY HIS HANDS UPON YOUR WEALTH! HEED MY FINAL WARNING...NEVER PERMIT HIM TO ENTER MY HOUSE AGAIN!
WHAT THE....!
IT'S A LIE! THE WHOLE THING IS NONSENSE!, GHOSTS DON'T EXIST, GAIL! WHAT'S COME OVER YOU?
I'M NOT MENTALLY ILL, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE DRIVING AT! WHY WERE YOU SO ANXIOUS TO MARRY ME SO SOON AFTER MY FATHER DIED? WHY?
GHOSTS DON'T EXIST IN MY BOOK, AND THAT GOES FOR THIS ONE, TOO!
THE LUMINOUS FIGURE TRIES TO ELUDE MARK'S GRASP, BUT...
JUST AS I FIGURED! A PHONEY!
OW...WW!
CRASH!
3

THERE'S YOUR FORTUNE HUNTER, GAIL ...YOUR UNCLE PETER! THAT LUMINOUS COSTUME AND PHONEY MASK WERE ALL HE NEEDED TO SCARE YOU OUT OF YOUR WITS! ONCE HE WOULD HAVE SUCCEEDED IN TURNING YOU AGAINST ME, YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN NEXT ON HIS LIST!
MARK! HE'S GOT A GUN!
YES, MY DEAR NIECE... WITH A BULLET FOR EACH OF YOU! IF IT WEREN'T FOR THIS MEDDLING YOUNG FOOL, I COULD HAVE MANEUVERED YOUR INHERITANCE INTO MY OWN HANDS! BUT IF I CAN'T HAVE IT NOW ...NEITHER WILL YOU!
THEN... A GRISLY VOICE...
NO, PETER! YOUR EVIL IS FINISHED!
LOOK!
HOLY SMOKE!
IT'S FATHER'S GHOST...ATTACKING UNCLE PETER!
YAGH!
A i i i i!
ONLY GREAT PERIL... TO ONE HE LOVED DEARLY IN LIFE... CAN RECALL A SPIRIT.. FROM THE BEYOND! I HAVE COME ... TO SAVE YOU... FOR A LIFE OF HAPPINESS...WITH THE MAN AT YOUR SIDE!
YOU HEARD WHAT FATHER SAID! WE CAN GET MARRIED TOMORROW ... AND I'LL NEVER DOUBT YOU AGAIN, DARLING, EVER!
I CAN HARDLY BLAME YOU FOR DOUBTING, HONEY! REMEMBER, I'M THE GUY WHO SAID THERE WERE NO SUCH THINGS AS GHOSTS!
THE END

In the space of one incredible instant, Willie Barnes was able to change wishful thinking into glittering reality! Immense wealth and power were his, but also... ***THE SEEDS OF DOOM!*** IMPOSSIBLE, you say? Then read on, and discover what fate had in store for the man who possessed...

The Miraculous LAMP!

THAT EVENING, AS WILLIE TRUDGED TOWARD HIS SHABBY APARTMENT --

I'LL GET **EVEN** WITH HIM SOMEDAY -- AND ALL THE OTHERS, TOO! I'LL HIT IT REAL BIG -- AND THEN THEY'LL BE SORRY THEY KICKED ME AROUND -- ONLY **THEN** IT WON'T DO 'EM ANY GOOD!

VOTE

HI, DORIS! SAY -- WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LIGHTS?

YOU SHOULD KNOW, WILLIE! WHEN YOU DON'T PAY THE BILL, THEY **CUT THEM OFF!**

QUICKLY, WILLIE TORE OPEN THE PACKAGE...

NOTHING INSIDE BUT AN OLD LAMP AND THIS NOTE! LISTEN: "MY DEAR NEPHEW, BY THE TIME YOU RECEIVE THIS, I'LL BE DEAD, AND THIS LITTLE LAMP IS ALL I CAN BEQUEATH YOU. IT CAN LIGHT THE WAY TO GOOD OR EVIL, AND IT'S MY SINCERE HOPE YOU WILL CHOOSE THE GOOD. YOUR LOVING UNCLE, FRANK!"

DON'T RUB IT IN, KID -- WE'LL BE LIVING IN CLOVER SOMEDAY! WHAT'S THAT PACKAGE?

IT'S FOR YOU -- FROM YOUR UNCLE FRANK IN INDIA! CAME THIS MORNING!

AS THE WICK SPUTTERED, A STRANGE CLOUD OF GUSHING SMOKE BILLOWED UPWARD! THEN --

GREAT GUNS! SOMETHING'S TAKING SHAPE!

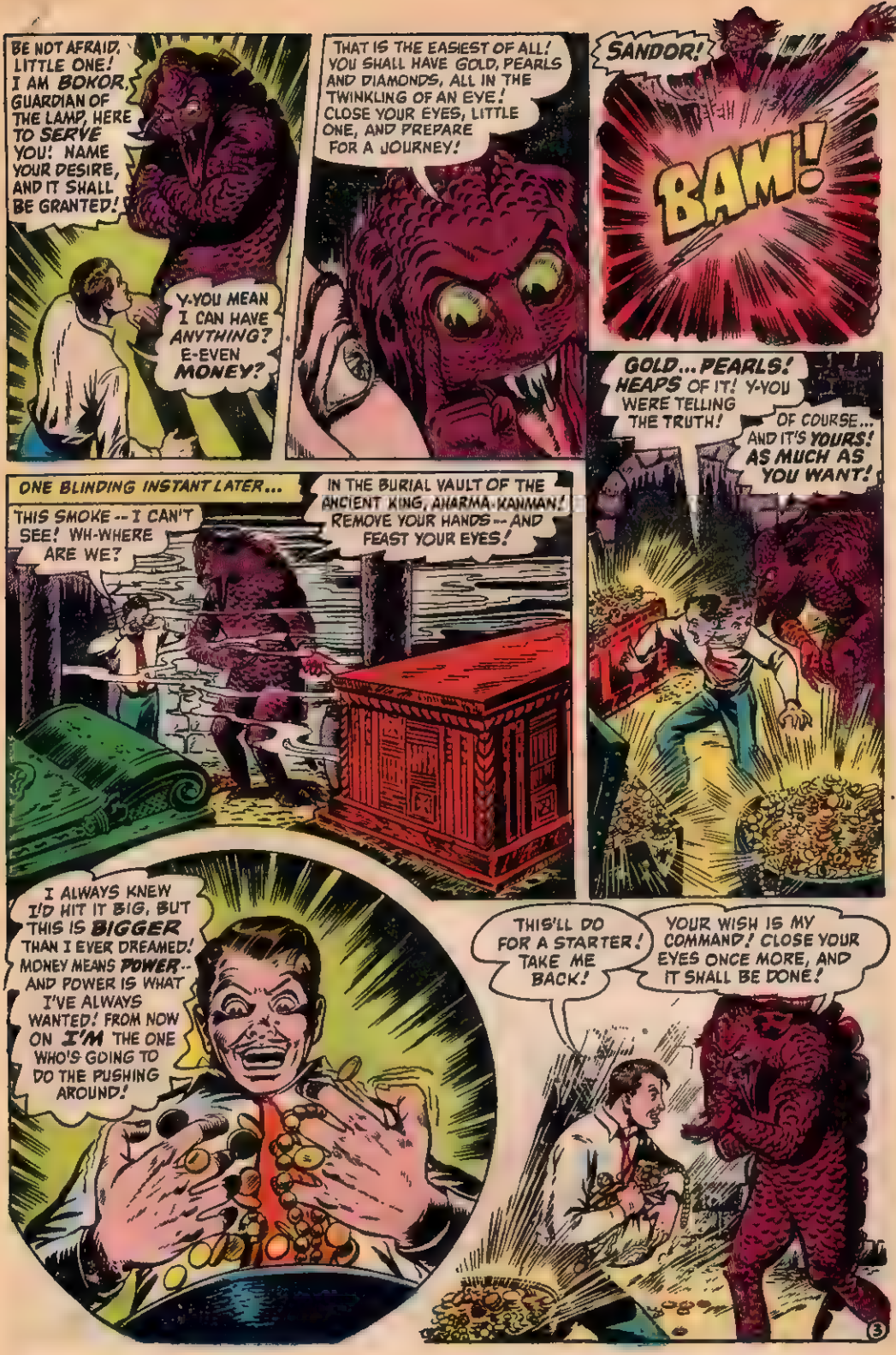
HAH! HA! HA!

THE OLD SKINFLINT -- HE MUST'VE MADE A **FORTUNE**! BUT WHAT DOES HE LEAVE **ME** -- A BATTERED TIN **LAMP**! WHAT WAS THE OLD NUT DRIVING AT?

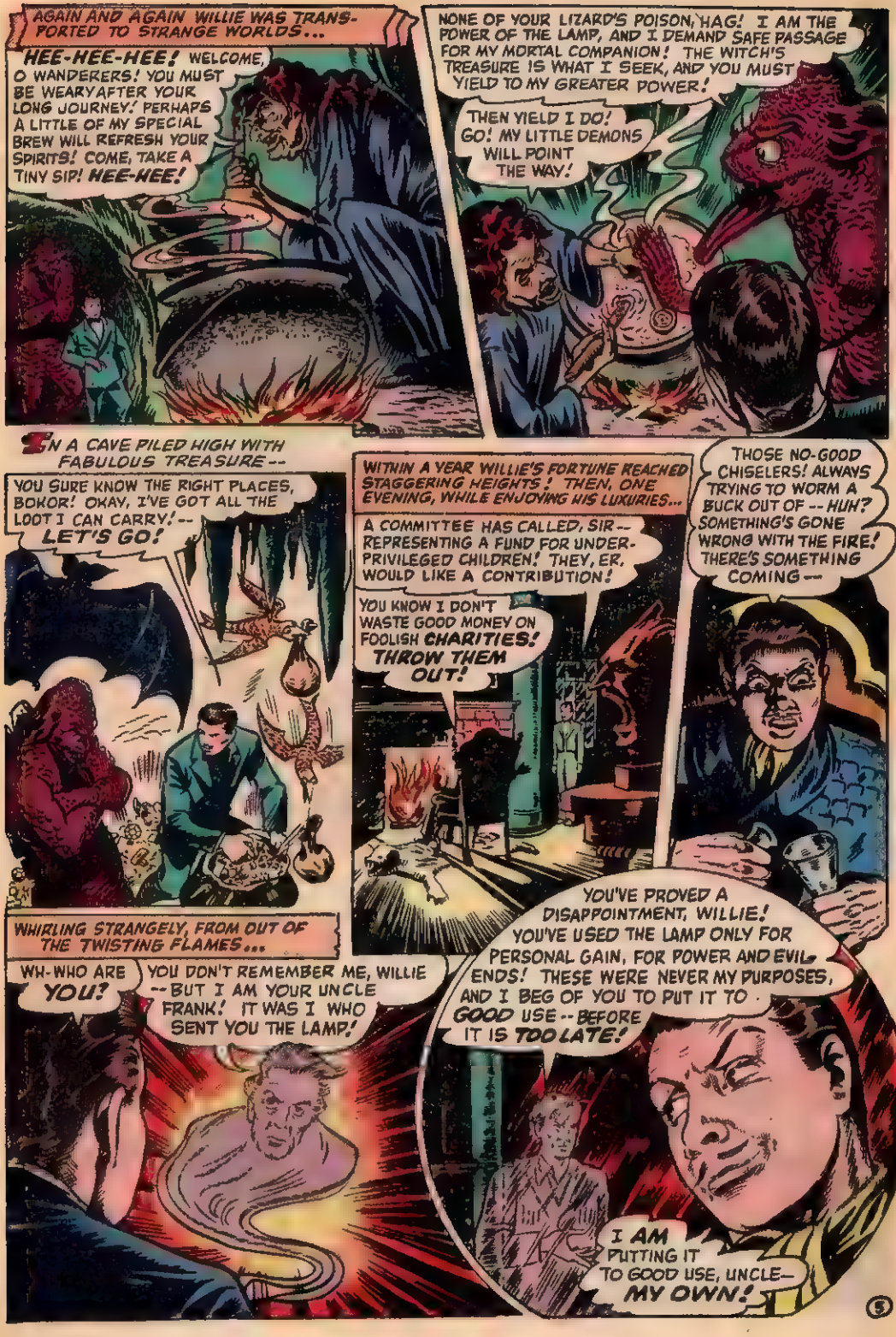
I DON'T KNOW, WILLIE -- AND I'M TOO TIRED TO REALLY CARE! I'M GOING TO BED -- GOOD NIGHT!

ALONE IN THE DARKENED ROOM... WILLIE PONDERED HIS BAD LUCK --

I MAY AS WELL PUT THIS CRUMMY THING TO USE! ONE THING FOR SURE, MY UNCLE'S TIMING COULDN'T BE BETTER! WHAT COULD BE A MORE PRACTICAL GIFT THAN A LAMP WHEN THE LIGHTS HAVE BEEN CUT OFF?


BE NOT AFRAID, LITTLE ONE! I AM BOKOR, GUARDIAN OF THE LAMP, HERE TO SERVE YOU! NAME YOUR DESIRE, AND IT SHALL BE GRANTED!
Y-YOU MEAN I CAN HAVE ANYTHING? E-EVEN MONEY?
THAT IS THE EASIEST OF ALL! YOU SHALL HAVE GOLD, PEARLS AND DIAMONDS, ALL IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE! CLOSE YOUR EYES, LITTLE ONE, AND PREPARE FOR A JOURNEY!
SANDOR!
BAM!
GOLD... PEARLS! HEAPS OF IT! Y-YOU WERE TELLING THE TRUTH!
OF COURSE... AND IT'S YOURS! AS MUCH AS YOU WANT!
ONE BLINDING INSTANT LATER...
THIS SMOKE -- I CAN'T SEE! WH-WHERE ARE WE?
IN THE BURIAL VAULT OF THE ANCIENT KING, AHARMA-KAHMAN! REMOVE YOUR HANDS -- AND FEAST YOUR EYES!
I ALWAYS KNEW I'D HIT IT BIG, BUT THIS IS BIGGER THAN I EVER DREAMED! MONEY MEANS POWER -- AND POWER IS WHAT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED! FROM NOW ON I'M THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO DO THE PUSHING AROUND!
THIS'LL DO FOR A STARTER! TAKE ME BACK!
YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND! CLOSE YOUR EYES ONCE MORE, AND IT SHALL BE DONE!
3

ONCE AGAIN THE TOWERING CREATURE UTTERED THE STRANGE WORD.. SANDOR! THE BLINDING FLASH FOLLOWED, AND THEN --
WE'RE BACK AGAIN--JUST LIKE THAT!
A MERE TRIFLE, LITTLE ONE--FOR ONE OF MY INFINITE POWERS!
NOW I MUST RETURN! WHEN YOU HAVE NEED OF ME, LIGHT THE LAMP AND I WILL COME --NO MATTER HOW OFTEN!
DON'T WORRY, PAL-- I'M GOING TO KEEP YOU A LOT BUSIER THAN YOU THINK!
SEVERAL WEEKS LATER, IN AN OFFICE IN THE CORE OF THE FINANCIAL DISTRICT...
IT'S GETTING WORSE, GENTLEMEN! I DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS, BUT SOMEBODY'S BUYING INTO THE MARKET LIKE A WILD MAN! HE'LL GOBBLE US ALL UP AT THIS RATE!
WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHO HE IS, CRUTHERS-- WE'VE GOT TO MAKE A DEAL WITH HIM!
ALL RIGHT, WATKINS, DON'T JUST STAND THERE! WHAT IS IT?
IT--IT'S HIM, SIR! THE INVESTOR WHO'S BEEN BUYING UP ALL THE STOCK! H-HE REQUESTS AN INTERVIEW!
I DO NOT REQUEST AN INTERVIEW... I DEMAND IT! MY NAME IS WILLIAM BARNES, GENTLEMEN! SHALL WE GET DOWN TO BUSINESS?
OF COURSE, SIR! D-DO COME IN!
AS THE MEETING DREW TO A CLOSE...
...THAT'S MY PROPOSITION, GENTLEMEN! EITHER YOU MERGE YOUR COMPANIES AND NAME ME PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD, OR I BUY YOU OUT! WHICH WILL IT BE?
W-WE ACCEPT YOUR PROPOSITION, MR. BARNES-- A-AND WE'RE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL!
AS THE MONTHS PASSED, WILLIE'S RISE TO POWER GREW SWIFTER! UNCEASINGLY, HE BENT HIS EFFORTS TOWARD GREATER AND GREATER WEALTH...
YOU ARE GREEDY, LITTLE MASTER! WHAT IS IT YOU WISH THIS TIME-- MORE MONEY?
YES, LOTS MORE! I WANT TO BE THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN THE WORLD!
4


AGAIN AND AGAIN WILLIE WAS TRANSPORTED TO STRANGE WORLDS...
HEE-HEE-HEE! WELCOME, O WANDERERS! YOU MUST BE WEARYAFTER YOUR LONG JOURNEY! PERHAPS A LITTLE OF MY SPECIAL BREW WILL REFRESH YOUR SPIRITS! COME, TAKE A TINY SIP! HEE-HEE!
NONE OF YOUR LIZARD'S POISON, HAG! I AM THE POWER OF THE LAMP, AND I DEMAND SAFE PASSAGE FOR MY MORTAL COMPANION! THE WITCH'S TREASURE IS WHAT I SEEK, AND YOU MUST YIELD TO MY GREATER POWER!
THEN YIELD I DO! GO! MY LITTLE DEMONS WILL POINT THE WAY!
IN A CAVE PILED HIGH WITH FABULOUS TREASURE--
YOU SURE KNOW THE RIGHT PLACES, BOKOR! OKAY, I'VE GOT ALL THE LOOT I CAN CARRY!-- LET'S GO!
WITHIN A YEAR WILLIE'S FORTUNE REACHED STAGGERING HEIGHTS! THEN, ONE EVENING, WHILE ENJOYING HIS LUXURIES...
A COMMITTEE HAS CALLED, SIR-- REPRESENTING A FUND FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN! THEY, ER, WOULD LIKE A CONTRIBUTION!
YOU KNOW I DON'T WASTE GOOD MONEY ON FOOLISH CHARITIES! THROW THEM OUT!
THOSE NO-GOOD CHISELERS! ALWAYS TRYING TO WORM A BUCK OUT OF -- HUH? SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG WITH THE FIRE! THERE'S SOMETHING COMING---
WHIRLING STRANGELY, FROM OUT OF THE TWISTING FLAMES...
WH-WHO ARE YOU!
YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME, WILLIE -- BUT I AM YOUR UNCLE FRANK! IT WAS I WHO SENT YOU THE LAMP!
YOU'VE PROVED A DISAPPOINTMENT, WILLIE! YOU'VE USED THE LAMP ONLY FOR PERSONAL GAIN, FOR POWER AND EVIL ENDS! THESE WERE NEVER MY PURPOSES, AND I BEG OF YOU TO PUT IT TO GOOD USE -- BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!
I AM PUTTING IT TO GOOD USE, UNCLE-- MY OWN!

YOU WILL BE DESTROYED BY YOUR OWN GREED! CHANGE YOUR WAYS-- WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME!
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME, UNCLE --I'LL NEVER CHANGE! LOOK--I DRINK A TOAST-- TO MY GREED! MAY IT GO ON, AND ON AND ON! HAA-HA-HA!
WHO'S THAT? OH-- IT'S YOU--SPYING AGAIN!
I WASN'T SPYING, WILLIE! I HEARD YOU SPEAKING TO SOMEONE AS I CAME BY--AND I WONDERED WHO IT COULD BE!
YOU'RE LYING, DORIS! YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A MISERABLE, SNEAKING LITTLE CHEAT!
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, WILLIE? HOW DID YOU ACCUMULATE ALL THIS WEALTH?
WAS IT A REWARD FOR ANYTHING BUT YOUR OWN MONSTROUS GREED?
I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THAT FROM YOU!
SLAP!
NOW GET OUT OF MY HOUSE-- TONIGHT! DON'T EVER COME BACK, AND DON'T EXPECT A CENT FROM ME! WE'RE THROUGH, DORIS-- FOR GOOD!
YES, WILLIE-- WE ARE THROUGH-- AND I'M GLAD!
LATER THAT NIGHT --
SHE'S GONE NOW, AND EVERYTHING IS MINE! I HAVE POSITION, WEALTH, POWER-- EVERYTHING I'VE EVER WANTED-- AND I'M BEYOND THE REACH OF ALL MEN!
WITH MY LAMP I CAN--YE GODS! IT'S GONE!
6

I... I'VE GOTTA GET IT BACK-- OTHERWISE I'LL BE RUINED! BUT HOW? GOTTA THINK --- DRAT THAT PHONE!
R-RING!
D-DORIS!
YES, WILLIE, AND YOU PROBABLY KNOW WHAT I HAVE WITH ME! IT'S THE LAMP, WILLIE, AND I'VE LEARNED ALL ABOUT IT!
Y-YOU'VE GOT TO BRING IT BACK! I'LL PAY ANYTHING--I'LL REFORM-- I'LL BE GOOD! WE CAN START OVER AGAIN, HONEY!
NO, WILLIE--YOU'RE AN EVIL, SELFISH MAN! I DON'T WANT YOU, AND I THINK THE WORLD WILL BE A BETTER PLACE WITHOUT YOU! GOODBYE, WILLIE!
SH-SHE HUNG UP ON ME--BUT I'LL FIX HER YET! I'LL GET A GUN AND --GREAT SCOTT! BOKOR'S MATERIALIZING BEFORE MY EYES!
D-DON'T COME ANY CLOSER! REMEMBER, I'M YOUR MASTER-- YOU MUST OBEY ME!
NO, GREEDY ONE, I SERVE A DIFFERENT MASTER NOW! HER WISH IS THAT YOU BE SENT TO A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN DO NO EVIL--AND I KNOW JUST SUCH A PLACE!
AT BOKOR'S COMMAND, A FIERY PIT OPENED BENEATH WILLIE'S FEET! THEN, PLUNGING HEADLONG TOWARD DEPTHS OF UNSPEAKABLE HORROR--
YAAGH!
NEXT MORNING, AT A CITY DOCK...
WILLIE IS GONE, AND NOW THE LAMP WILL BE GONE, TOO! LET IT REMAIN AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA, SO THAT IT MAY NEVER FALL INTO EVIL HANDS AGAIN!
SPLASH!
THE END
7

OUT of the NIGHT... TO YOU!

WE WISH WE could have invited all of you to our big birthday party. You see, with this issue America's leading supernatural magazine, *"Out of The Night"*, becomes one year old! Quite a popular baby, we must say, for if we had wanted to invite you *all*, there wouldn't have been enough room to hold everybody in *ten* Madison Square Gardens!

Looking back now, we have to fight back the desire to say, "We told you so!" to the initial doubters. Oh, there were many who exclaimed, "What? *Another* supernatural?" But we had a ready reply: *"Out of The Night"* was not to be like anything else in the field. Apparently we've succeeded, to judge by the flood of congratulatory letters from our ever-growing audience. Small wonder, really, for we've dedicated ourselves to bring *you*, our loyal fans, the very best in electrifying and eerie stories about the mysterious worlds which lie beyond mortal ken. And we've taken great pains to have these stories brilliantly illustrated by a galaxy of America's finest artists.

Consider the present issue, which we modestly consider our greatest yet. *"The Curse of the Witch"* has everything, building up to an overwhelmingly chilling climax that even constant rereading cannot tarnish. *"The Miraculous Lamp!"* is tops in tingling thrills, a fascinating yarn concerning crime and punishment, and haunted by as weird a menace as you've encountered. You'll long remember *"The Spectral Visitor"*, a marvellously gripping account of love and hate, and vengeance from beyond the grave. As for *"The Avenging Soul"*, read *that* in a well-lighted room, for its pulse-stopping chills will leave you gasping!

These, readers, are just a *few* of the great yarns you'll find in this bangup issue. We haven't spared a thing. Usually at a birthday party, the guests bring the happy celebrant a present, but in this case we're reversing the procedure. This is our birthday gift to *you*, and you richly deserve it.

Truly, fans, we feel greatly in your debt. You've made our efforts successful by your helpful comments and suggestions, and above all, by your never-ceasing encouragement. If *you* haven't written to The Editor, *"Out of The Night"*, 45 West 45th Street, New York 36, N. Y., why not join the thousands of other fans who have? Remember, we'll print your comments as soon as possible! And now, let's get at some of our mail:

"Dear Editor:-

I simply had *to write and tell you what a wonderful book* 'Out of The Night' *is. I find it the most breathtaking thriller of all comics, and I'll buy it every time it comes out. Keep up the good work! A regular buyer...*

--N. Campbell, Fitzgerald, Ga."

"Dear Editor:-

I am a mother who is 28 years old, and I have three little ones. We all read your 'Out of The Night', *and it's just grand. You can't find any book to beat it! We always buy our copy just as soon as it appears on the stands.*

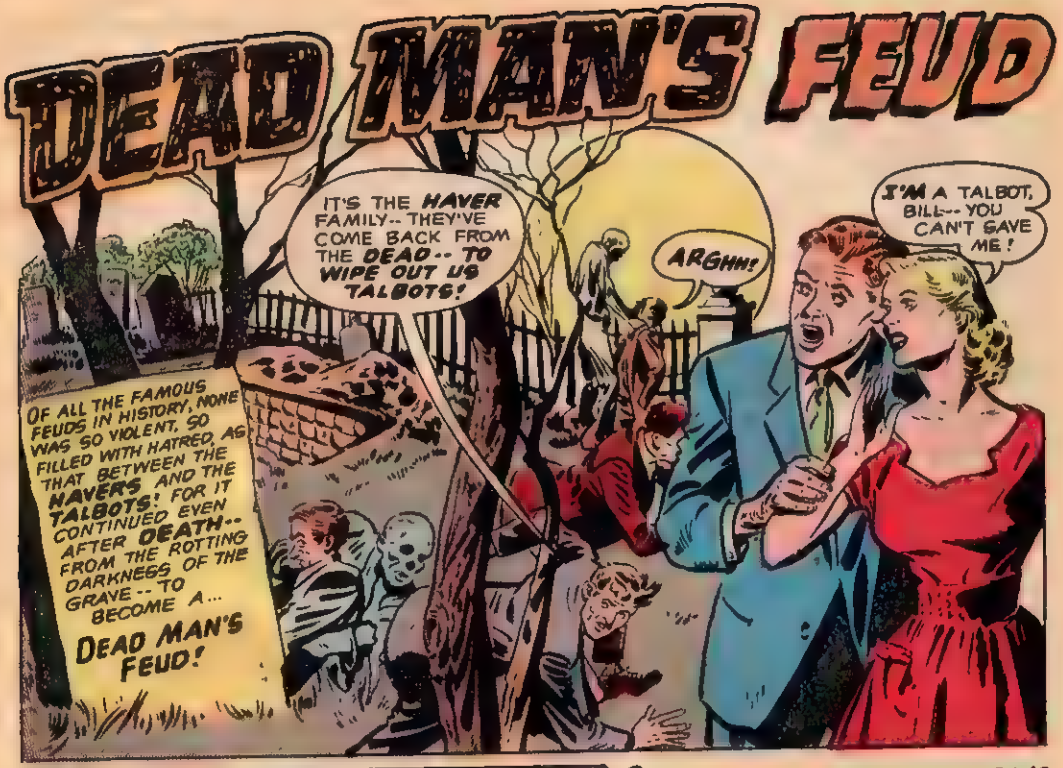
--Mrs. Kurt Kuchno, Highland, Calif."

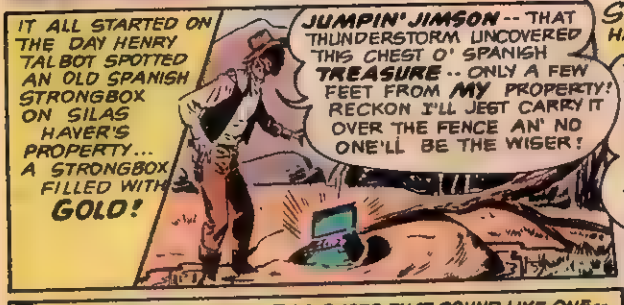
"Dear Editor:-

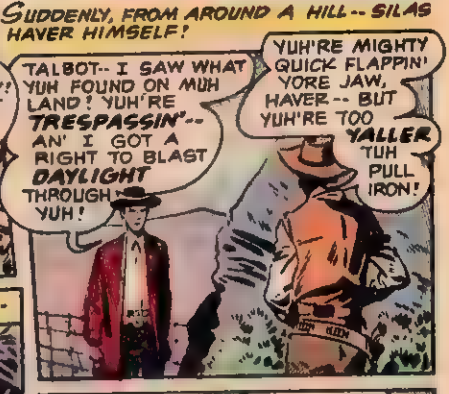
I've just finished reading 'Out of The Night', *and I think it the* best *of all the comics I have ever read.*

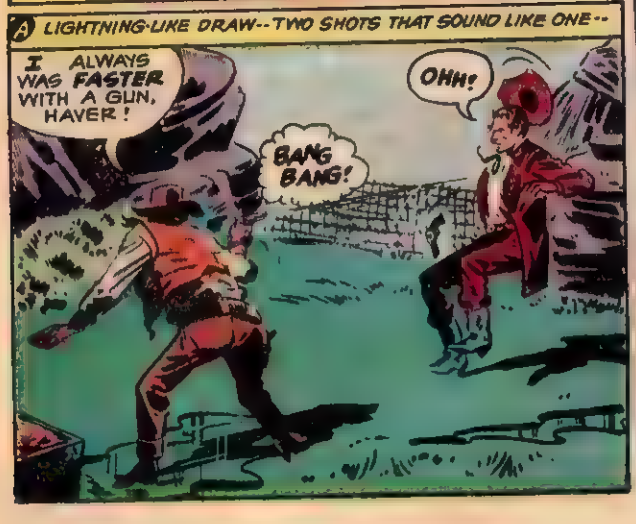
--C. Winckler, Chicago, Ill."

DEAD MAN'S FEUD

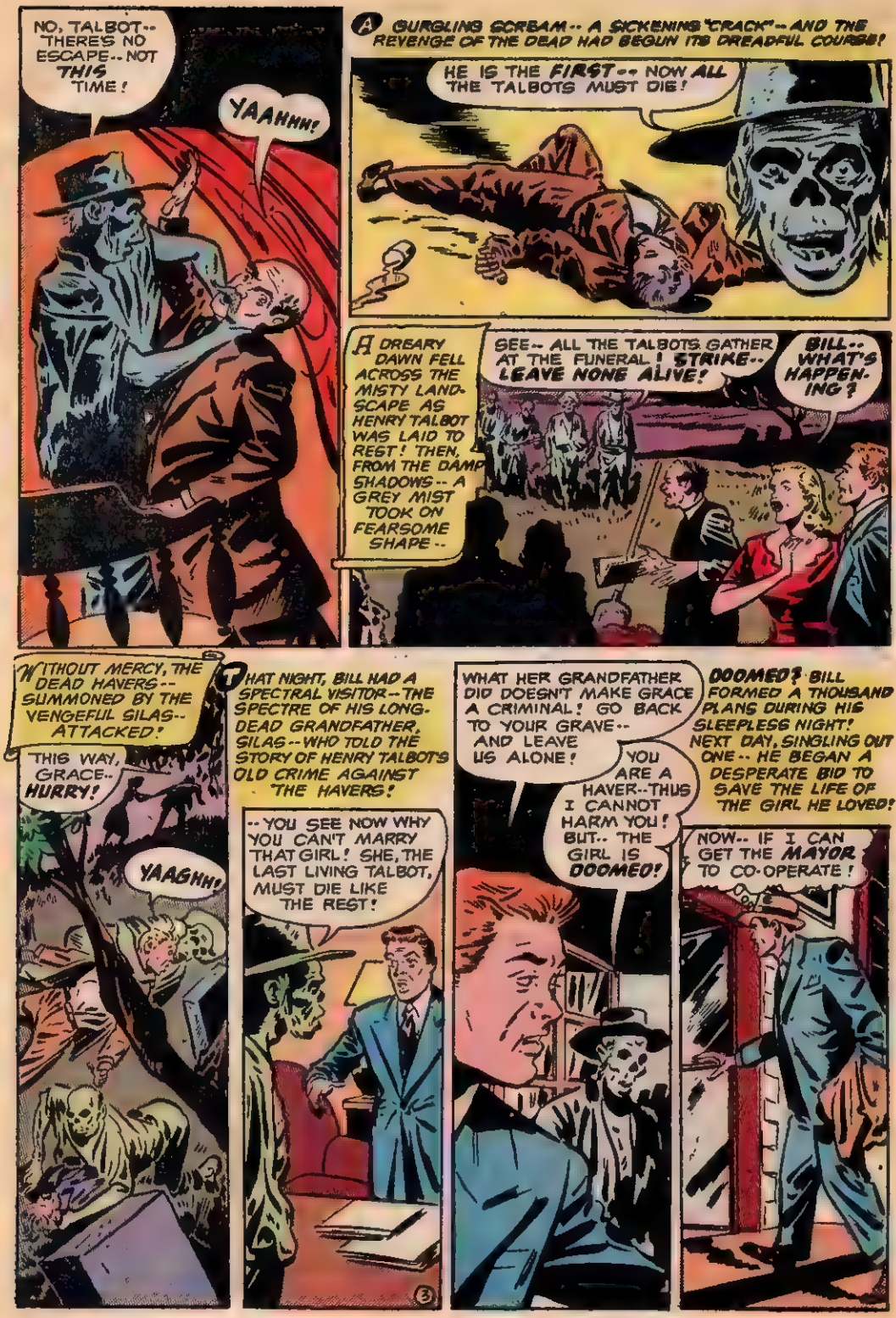








MANY YEARS PASSED-- BUT THE FEUD BETWEEN THE FAMILIES RAGED WITH UNABATED FURY! MEANWHILE, THE TALBOTS GREW MORE AND MORE POWERFUL, UNTIL AT LAST--
HA!.. ANOTHER ONE!
ONLY ONE HAVER LEFT, DAD-- AND HE'S AWAY AT COLLEGE!
WHEN BILL HAVER RETURNED HOME, HE WENT STRAIGHT TO THE TALBOT HOMESTEAD! BUT INSTEAD OF SIXGUNS, HE WAS ARMED WITH-- A MARRIAGE LICENSE!
GRANDPA-- BILL AND I ARE CALLING OFF THIS SILLY FEUD! WE'VE BEEN IN LOVE SINCE WE WERE KIDS-- AND WE'RE GETTING MARRIED!
MY GRANDDAUGHTER MARRY A-- HAVER? YUH'RE PLUMB LOCO, GAL!
BUT, HENRY TALBOT WAS OLD-- AND TIRED!
MEBBE THE YOUNG'UNS ARE RIGHT! I OWE MUH GOOD FORTUNE TUH THE MONEY I STOLE FROM SILAS HAVER-- AND BILL NEVER TOOK PART IN THE FEUD!
OKAY, SON-- WE'LL LET BYGONES BE BYGONES! GRACE IS YORE'N-- AN' YUH BETTER TREAT HER RIGHT!
THANKS, MR. TALBOT-- I SURE WILL!
BUT-- IF THE FEUD WAS ENDED FOR THE LIVING-- IT WAS ONLY STARTING-- FOR THE DEAD! FOR AT THAT MOMENT-- FROM AN OLD TOMB--
WHAT THE---! THE FRENCH WINDOW BLEW OPEN! WH-WHO'S THERE?
HENRY TALBOT THINKS HE HAS WON-- BUT HE'S WRONG! THE TIME HAS COME-- FOR ME TO STRIKE!
SILAS HAVE
1831 - 1891
IT'S ME-- SILAS HAVER! I SAID I'D COME BACK, AND-- I HAVE!
N-NO! STAND BACK OR I'LL---


NO, TALBOT-- THERE'S NO ESCAPE-- NOT THIS TIME!
YAAHHH!
A GURGLING SCREAM-- A SICKENING "CRACK"-- AND THE REVENGE OF THE DEAD HAD BEGUN ITS DREADFUL COURSE!
HE IS THE FIRST-- NOW ALL THE TALBOTS MUST DIE!
A DREARY DAWN FELL ACROSS THE MISTY LANDSCAPE AS HENRY TALBOT WAS LAID TO REST! THEN, FROM THE DAMP SHADOWS-- A GREY MIST TOOK ON FEARSOME SHAPE--
SEE-- ALL THE TALBOTS GATHER AT THE FUNERAL! STRIKE-- LEAVE NONE ALIVE!
BILL-- WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WITHOUT MERCY, THE DEAD HAVERS-- SUMMONED BY THE VENGEFUL SILAS-- ATTACKED!
THIS WAY, GRACE-- HURRY!
YAAGHH!
THAT NIGHT, BILL HAD A SPECTRAL VISITOR-- THE SPECTRE OF HIS LONG-DEAD GRANDFATHER, SILAS-- WHO TOLD THE STORY OF HENRY TALBOT'S OLD CRIME AGAINST THE HAVERS!
-- YOU SEE NOW WHY YOU CAN'T MARRY THAT GIRL! SHE, THE LAST LIVING TALBOT, MUST DIE LIKE THE REST!
3
WHAT HER GRANDFATHER DID DOESN'T MAKE GRACE A CRIMINAL! GO BACK TO YOUR GRAVE-- AND LEAVE US ALONE!
YOU ARE A HAVER-- THUS I CANNOT HARM YOU! BUT-- THE GIRL IS DOOMED!
DOOMED? BILL FORMED A THOUSAND PLANS DURING HIS SLEEPLESS NIGHT! NEXT DAY, SINGLING OUT ONE-- HE BEGAN A DESPERATE BID TO SAVE THE LIFE OF THE GIRL HE LOVED!
NOW-- IF I CAN GET THE MAYOR TO CO-OPERATE!

YES, THE MAYOR CO-OPERATED! THEN, HURRYING TO A PRINTER'S--
NEXT, TO A BAKERY--WHILE TIME RAN OUT FOR THE DOOMED GIRL!
HE HAD DONE ALL IN HIS MORTAL POWER TO DEFEAT THE DREAD FORCES FROM THE BEYOND! BUT AT THE LIBRARY OF THE TALBOT HOME--A GHASTLY SIGHT AWAITED HIM!
WELL--CAN YOU DO IT?
HMM--GUESS SO, IF I CAN FIND SOME OLD-FASHIONED TYPE!
LOOK--WE BAKE BREAD HERE, NOT--
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO! IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH!
YOU RETURN--TO WATCH THE LAST TALBOT DIE!
WAIT! YOU'VE MADE A HORRIBLE MISTAKE!
LOOK AT THIS! IT'S THE COUNTY'S PROPERTY RECORDS!
SO? WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
County Record 1898
THERE, IN BLACK AND WHITE, WAS THE EVIDENCE--EVIDENCE THAT COULD NOT BE DOUBTED--NOT EVEN BY SILAS!
HOPPIN' HORNED TOADS! THE GOLD WASN'T MINE!
On this day, a claim was staked by Henry Talbot, the northern boundary of said claim to extend from the Post Road to the Ox-bow river; the southern boundary to the---
EXACTLY! THE SPANISH GOLD WAS REALLY BURIED ON TALBOT PROPERTY! HE WAS JUSTIFIED IN SHOOTING YOU! YOU WERE TRESPASSING!
IT MUST BE TRUE--IT'S IN THE OFFICIAL RECORD!
AFTER THE GRIM SPECTRES HAD DEPARTED--
IT WAS OFFICIAL, ALL RIGHT--EXCEPT FOR THAT FAKED PAGE YOU HAD PRINTED TODAY, AND THEN BAKED TO MAKE IT LOOK YELLOW AND OLD! IT SAVED MY LIFE!
RIGHT, BUT OLD SILAS'S POOR MEMORY HELPED, TOO!
LOOKS LIKE THE FEUD IS OVER--AT LAST!
NO, DARLING--FROM WHAT MY MARRIED FRIENDS TELL ME, IT'S JUST BEGINNING!
THE END

The AVENGING SOUL

"WHAT SCIENCE HAS CREATED, SCIENCE CAN DESTROY!" But is this belief true? For when science crosses the bridge of reality into the mysterious UNKNOWN--who knows what horror-laden catastrophe may result? For the grisly account of a monstrous scientific mistake, we challenge you to read... The Avenging Soul!

YOU FOOL! YOU CANNOT KILL ME-- TWICE!

THE HORROR DID NOT BEGIN ON THE NIGHT A WARPED MURDERER WAS ELECTROCUTED--

NOR DID IT BEGIN WHEN STAN BENSON CALLED AT THE PRISON FOR HIS BROTHER'S BODY--

NO--THE TIME OF HORROR STARTED WHEN THE BRILLIANT YOUNG DOCTOR BROUGHT GAT BENSON'S CORPSE TO HIS SECLUDED LABORATORY--

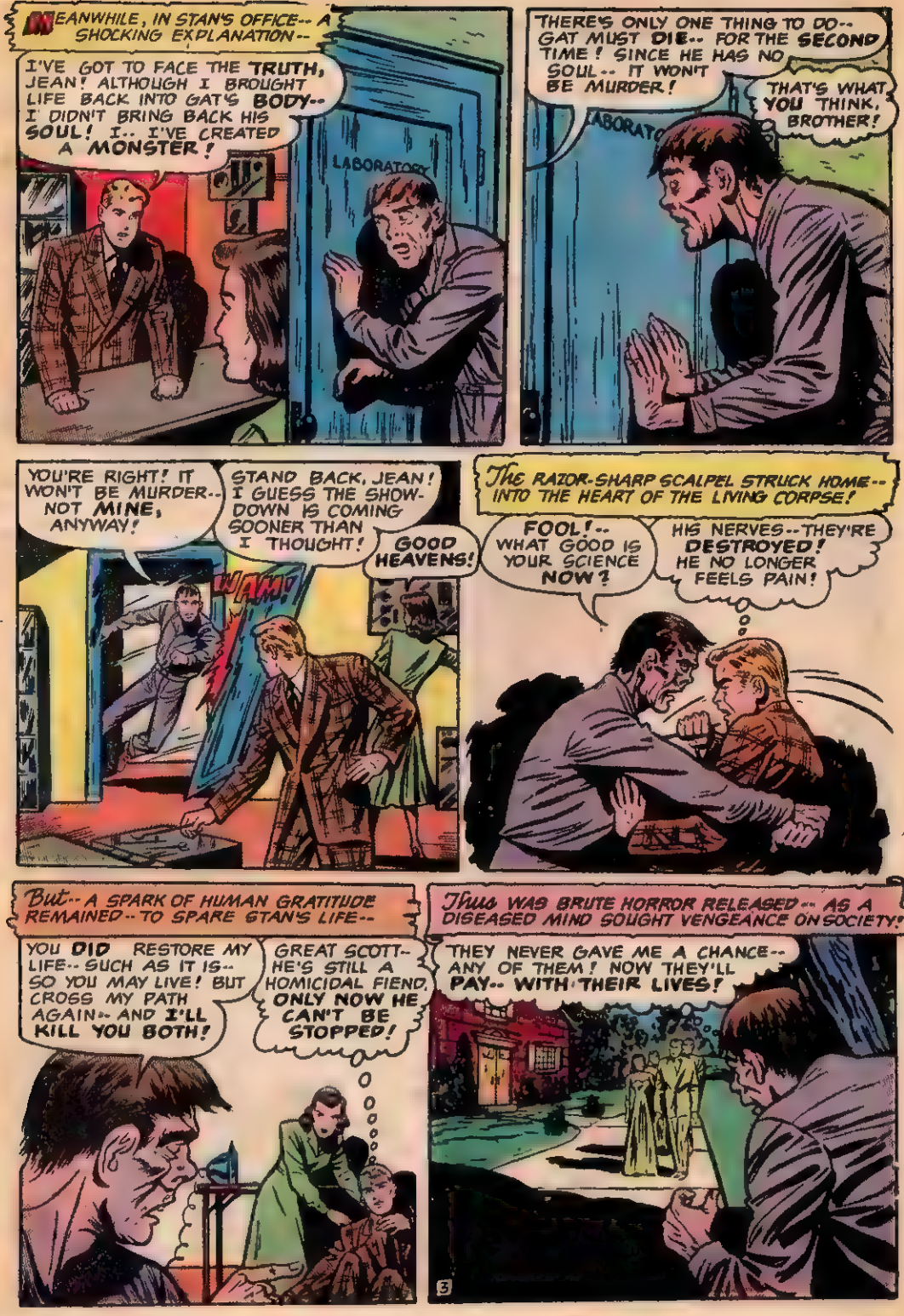
TELL THE REPORTERS-- GAT BENSON IS DEAD!

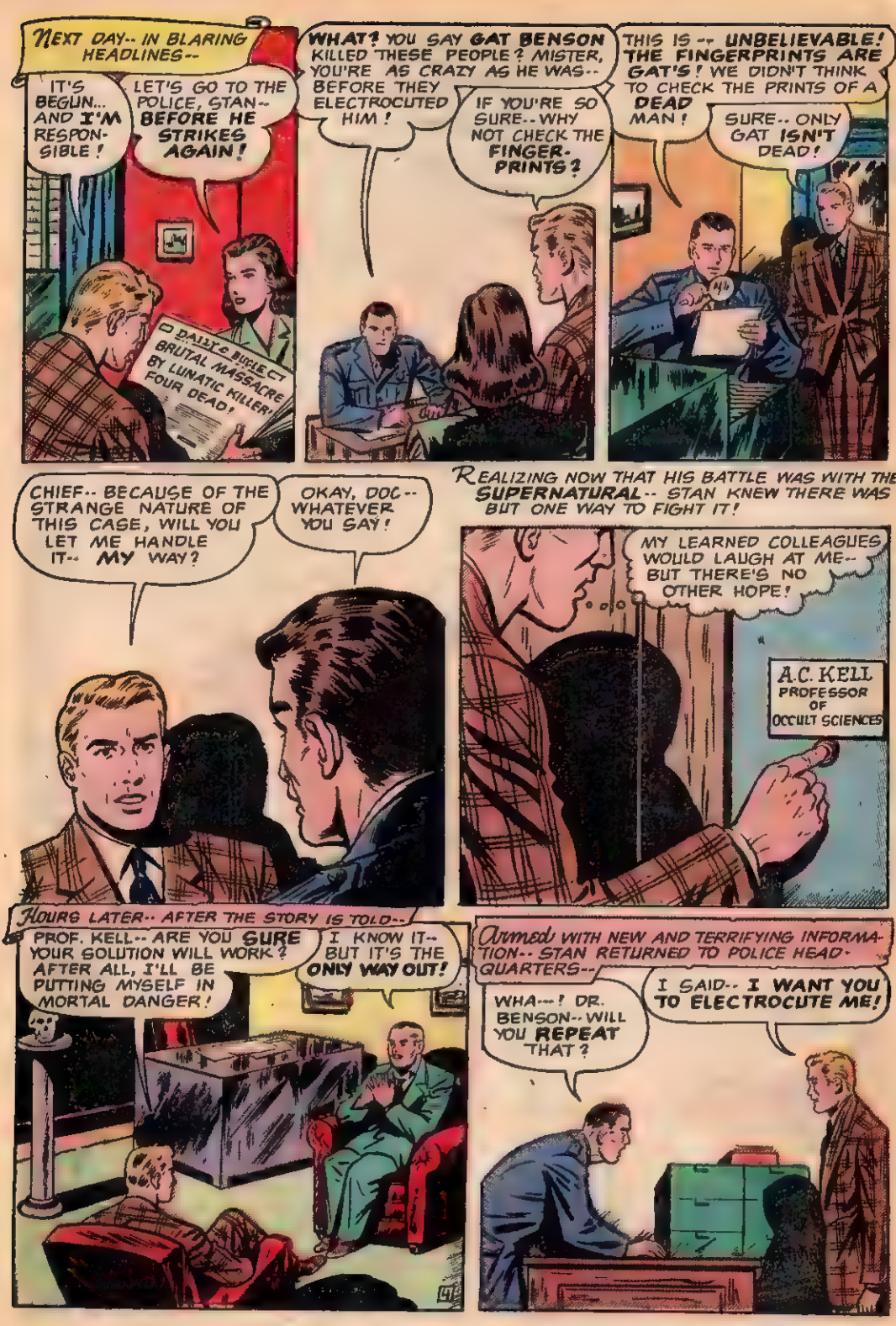
IT'S STRANGE, DR. BENSON-- I MEAN-- YOU BEING AN EMINENT SCIENTIST, WHILE HE---

HE STILL DESERVES A DECENT BURIAL! THE DEAD ARE NO LONGER CRIMINALS!

... AND NOW, BROTHER-- IF MY CALCULATIONS ARE RIGHT-- IN A FEW MINUTES YOU WILL LIVE AGAIN!

As THE TIME DREW NEAR FOR THE WELL-PLANNED EXPERIMENT, STAN'S LAB ASSISTANT FELT THE NUMBNESS OF TERROR CREEP OVER HER--
STAN-- IF WE SUCCEED, WE'LL BE SETTING FREE A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL AGAIN!
JEAN-- THAT'S THE RISK I'VE GOT TO TAKE!
BUT I HAVE HOPES THAT DEATH WILL HAVE PURIFIED HIS SOUL-- THAT HE WILL COME BACK AS A USEFUL CITIZEN!
Then-- AS THE FATEFUL MOMENT APPROACHED--
IN A FEW SECONDS-- WE'LL KNOW!
CLIK!
A BRILLIANT FLASH OF CHAINED ENERGY-- A MOMENT OF BLINDNESS--
CRASH!
A LONG MOMENT OF SILENCE-- THEN--
LOOK-- HIS EYES ARE OPENING! HE'S-- ALIVE!
OH, STAN-- YOU DID IT!
H-HOW DO YOU FEEL, GAT?
WH-WHAT HAPPENED?
DON'T TALK TO HIM NOW, JEAN-- HE'S BEEN THROUG A TERRIBLE ORDEAL!
A WEEK PASSED, AND WITH EACH DAY GAT'S DECAYING FACE REVEALED THAT SOMEWHERE, SOMEHOW-- STAN HAD ERRED!
WHAT DID THEY DO TO ME? I LOOK LIKE A CORPSE-- A CORPSE THAT'S BEEN DEAD FOR A WEEK!


MEANWHILE, IN STAN'S OFFICE-- A SHOCKING EXPLANATION--
I'VE GOT TO FACE THE TRUTH, JEAN! ALTHOUGH I BROUGHT LIFE BACK INTO GAT'S BODY-- I DIDN'T BRING BACK HIS SOUL! I.. I'VE CREATED A MONSTER!
LABORATORY
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO-- GAT MUST DIE-- FOR THE SECOND TIME! SINCE HE HAS NO SOUL-- IT WON'T BE MURDER!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, BROTHER!
YOU'RE RIGHT! IT WON'T BE MURDER-- NOT MINE, ANYWAY!
STAND BACK, JEAN! I GUESS THE SHOW-DOWN IS COMING SOONER THAN I THOUGHT!
GOOD HEAVENS!
WAM!
The RAZOR-SHARP SCALPEL STRUCK HOME-- INTO THE HEART OF THE LIVING CORPSE!
FOOL!-- WHAT GOOD IS YOUR SCIENCE NOW?
HIS NERVES--THEY'RE DESTROYED! HE NO LONGER FEELS PAIN!
But-- A SPARK OF HUMAN GRATITUDE REMAINED--TO SPARE STAN'S LIFE--
YOU DID RESTORE MY LIFE-- SUCH AS IT IS-- SO YOU MAY LIVE! BUT CROSS MY PATH AGAIN-- AND I'LL KILL YOU BOTH!
GREAT SCOTT-- HE'S STILL A HOMICIDAL FIEND, ONLY NOW HE CAN'T BE STOPPED!
Thus WAS BRUTE HORROR RELEASED-- AS A DISEASED MIND SOUGHT VENGEANCE ON SOCIETY!
THEY NEVER GAVE ME A CHANCE-- ANY OF THEM! NOW THEY'LL PAY-- WITH THEIR LIVES!
3


NEXT DAY-- IN BLARING HEADLINES--
IT'S BEGUN... AND I'M RESPONSIBLE!
LET'S GO TO THE POLICE, STAN-- BEFORE HE STRIKES AGAIN!
DAILY BUGLE
BRUTAL MASSACRE BY LUNATIC KILLER! FOUR DEAD!
WHAT? YOU SAY GAT BENSON KILLED THESE PEOPLE? MISTER, YOU'RE AS CRAZY AS HE WAS-- BEFORE THEY ELECTROCUTED HIM!
IF YOU'RE SO SURE-- WHY NOT CHECK THE FINGER-PRINTS?
THIS IS -- UNBELIEVABLE! THE FINGERPRINTS ARE GAT'S! WE DIDN'T THINK TO CHECK THE PRINTS OF A DEAD MAN!
SURE-- ONLY GAT ISN'T DEAD!
CHIEF-- BECAUSE OF THE STRANGE NATURE OF THIS CASE, WILL YOU LET ME HANDLE IT-- MY WAY?
OKAY, DOC-- WHATEVER YOU SAY!
REALIZING NOW THAT HIS BATTLE WAS WITH THE SUPERNATURAL-- STAN KNEW THERE WAS BUT ONE WAY TO FIGHT IT!
MY LEARNED COLLEAGUES WOULD LAUGH AT ME-- BUT THERE'S NO OTHER HOPE!
A.C. KELL PROFESSOR OF OCCULT SCIENCES
HOURS LATER-- AFTER THE STORY IS TOLD--
PROF. KELL-- ARE YOU SURE YOUR SOLUTION WILL WORK? AFTER ALL, I'LL BE PUTTING MYSELF IN MORTAL DANGER!
I KNOW IT-- BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY OUT!
Armed WITH NEW AND TERRIFYING INFORMATION-- STAN RETURNED TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS--
WHA---! DR. BENSON-- WILL YOU REPEAT THAT?
I SAID-- I WANT YOU TO ELECTROCUTE ME!

The case-hardened chief felt his stomach freeze as Stan revealed his fantastic plan--

So, Stan prepared to offer his life--to set straight his own ghastly mistake--

I **HOPE** NOT! THIS ROPE IS CALLED A **JU-JU HALTER!** THE VOODOO MEN OF HAITI USE IT TO BIND THE SOULS OF ZOMBIES! YOU'LL SEE HOW IT WORKS-- **SOON!**

GAT CAN BE DEFEATED ONLY BY A BEING LIKE **HIMSELF** -- **A LIVING CORPSE!** AND THAT'S WHAT **I** MUST BECOME!

IT'S YOUR FUNERAL, DOC-- BUT FIRST I'LL HAVE TO GET THE GOVERNOR'S OKAY---

YOU SEE, WARDEN, WHEN GAT WAS ELECTROCUTED, HIS SOUL **IMMEDIATELY** LEFT HIS BODY-- AND I COULDN'T RECAPTURE IT!

BUT WON'T THAT HAPPEN TO YOU, TOO?

Moments LATER, A NOD FROM THE WARDEN -- AND A POWERFUL ELECTRICAL SWITCH WAS THROWN--

CR-RACK!

Even AS STAN WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD, JEAN WENT INTO ACTION IN A NEARBY CELL THAT SERVED AS A TEMPORARY LAB--

STAN, DARLING-- PLEASE COME BACK-- **YOU'VE GOT TO!**

CLIK!

Then-- **A MYSTIFYING SIGHT**-- AS STAN ROSE TO HIS FEET... BUT NOT ALONE!

THE JU-JU HALTER- **IT WORKED!** THERE'S MY SOUL--UNABLE TO GET AWAY FROM MY BODY!

DOCTOR SAYS GAT BENSON STILL ALIVE-- STILL KILLING! EXTRA!

IF THAT NEWSPAPER STORY ACTS AS BAIT -- GAT SHOULD BE **WAITING** FOR US! **C'MON!**

The "BAIT" HAD WORKED-- FOR WHEN STAN RETURNED TO HIS LABORATORY--
HA! I'VE BEEN WAITING--TO SHOW YOU WHAT HAPPENS TO A SQUEALER! GET READY TO DIE-- SLOWLY!
I-- I MUST GO THROUGH WITH IT!
As THE LIVING DEAD CLASHED IN MORTAL COMBAT--
WHAT THE--! YOU'RE A LIVING DEAD MAN-- LIKE ME! I-- I CAN TELL BY YOUR EYES! WELL, IT WON'T WORK, YOU FOOL!
Y' SEE, STAN, I WAS ALWAYS STRONGER THAN YOU-- AND WE'RE STILL ON THE SAME TERMS!
ARG!
But NOW, STAN'S SOUL -- ARMED WITH THE GIANT STRENGTH OF JUSTICE-- STRUCK!
WHO-- WHAT IS IT?
I AM STAN'S SOUL, MONSTER-- READY TO DEFEND HIM! HIS BODY ALONE COULD NEVER OVERCOME YOU -- BUT WITH THE MIGHT OF AN UPRIGHT SOUL, IT CAN NEVER BE DEFEATED! NOW-- RETURN TO ETERNAL PUNISHMENT!
Thus DID THE DECAYING BODY OF GAT BENSON JOIN HIS SOUL -- IN EVERLASTING DEATH!
STAN, DEAR-- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW-- BUT I'LL FIND OUT IN A SECOND!
As STAN REMOVED THE JU-JU HALTER--
Y-YOUR SOUL-- IT VANISHED BACK INTO YOUR BODY!
OH, DARLING, IT'S ALL OVER-- AT LAST!
YOU KNOW, HONEY-- MOST MEN SAY, "I'D DIE FOR YOU, SWEETHEART!" BUT I CAN SAY-- I DID DIE FOR YOU, SWEETHEART!
THE END

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